the year 1987 is 13,02,237. This figure represents only the reported cases from various S.T.D. clinics.

(i) *National Programme for control of Blindness*

The Government have launched a National Programme for control of blindness since 1976 with an aim to reduce blindness from 1.4 per cent in 1973 to 0.3 per cent by 2000. A.D. The programme provides immediate relief to the needy through camp approach and establishing permanent eye care infrastructure with graded expertise at different levels coupled with 'Health Education Measures'.

National Programme for control of S.T.D.

(i) Prior to Sixth Five Year Plan, National S.T.D. Control Programme was a centrally sponsored scheme with 50:50 sharing basis. Under the scheme drugs Benzathine, Penicillin-was supplied to the State/UTs free of cost and cash grant to States for establishment of S.T.D. clinics. The scheme during the Sixth Five Year Plan was restructured and inducted as a purely Central sector scheme with 100 per cent Central assistance to provide teaching, training, research and epidemiology in the field of S.T.D. to cater on a zonal basis. For the purpose, Regional S.T.D. Teaching-cum-Training Centre, Regional S.T.D. Reference Laboratory and Regional Survey-cum-Mobile S.T.D. units have been established at Calcutta, Delhi, Hyderabad, Madras and Nagpur. The S.T.D. Training Centres would be providing orientation courses to the inservicee medical and medical personnel to improve their working knowledge in the discipline of Venereology. The S.T.D. Reference Lab would be involved in conducting short orientation courses in the lab diagnosis of S.T.D.; conduct inter-laboratory evaluation of VDRL tests and undertake research work leading to lab diagnosis of S.T.D. The Regional S.T.D. survey-cum-Mobile unit would be engaged in conducting survey work in the backward and tribal areas, industrial belts, educational centres; tourist spots etc. to under stand the epidemiology of the disease.

Additional Vayudoot Service in Gujarat

164. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state whether additional flights or new routes are being considered for Vayudoot services in Gujarat covering Rajkot, Jamnagar, Porbander and other centres with Ahmedabad, if so, at what stage the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): While Rajkot, Porbander and Ahmedabad are being served by Vayudoot's daily flights, Jamnagar is being operated by Indian Airlines at present. The present frequencies on these routes are considered adequate to cope up with the available traffic load.

Implementation of New Education Policy

165. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new education policy is being implemented by all the States as planned and projected; if so, what are the details in this regard and which States are lagging behind and those which are fulfilling the plans; and

(b) what is the number of Navodaya Vidyalaya till date in various States and staff facilities available therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) A report about implementation of new education policy by the Central and State Governments had been brought out by Government in March, 1988 and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 23rd March, 1988.

(b) 209 Navodaya Vidyalayas are functioning at present in various States. Necessary teaching and non-teaching staff have been posted and other physical facilities provided in these Vidyalayas.

Setting up of the New Medical Colleges in the country

166. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of medical colleges likely to be set up in the country by the end of the current five year plan State-wise; and

(b) if so, what are the places which have been identified for opening of these colleges, and what amount has been sanctioned for each college?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) There is no proposal with the Government at present to set up any new medical college in the country during the current Five Year Plan.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of a Highways Funding Body

167. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing National highways in the country are not upto the prescribed standards;

(b) whether Government are considering to set up a highway funding body for modernising the national highways; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The institutional arrangements for public borrowing for financing construction of National Highways in the country have not been finalised.

Introduction of superfast and express trains

168. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what criteria are adopted for introduction of superfast and express trains in the country;

(b) what is the number of such trains proposed to be introduced during the remaining period of the current five year plan in each Railway zone; and

(c) what is the number of superfast trains proposed for Maharashtra giving details of stations to be connected by these trains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Introduction of trains, including Superfast trains are decided during the Inter Railway Time Table Meeting held twice a year. The criteria is need based and the resource availability.

Inadequate Handling Facilities at Haldia Dock

169. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: